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## Turner's Authority

IN TODAY'S uncertain world it is essential that the United States gather as much information as possible about any potential adversaries. To do so is to help insure our survival.

But it makes sense that such intelligence gathering be coordinated. To have a multiplicity of agencies operating on their own could possibly bring in a greater amount of material. But there is no question that such independent actions generate duplication of effort and give rise to unnecessary risks.

Thus President Carter is moving to grant greater authority to Admiral Stansfield Turner, director of the CIA,

to oversee the other intelligence activities of the nation. Whether this is the best possible solution remains to be seen. But logic certainly points to this being a sensible approach.

Not surprisingly the president's move has met with opposition within the administration. No one likes to see a part of his domain eroded. And Secretary of Defense Harold Brown is reported to have put up a stiff fight to keep the Defense Department's National Security Agency (NSA) out of Admiral Turner's orbit.

That opposition did produce a compromise. Admiral Turner will not be given a new title, only new authority. And the NSA will remain within the Defense Department, but its budget will be under the CIA director's explicit control.

The United States is not the first nation to field a multiple group of intelligence agencies, nor are we the first to attempt consolidation with all the attendant infighting.

But national intelligence efforts are relatively new to us, the CIA having been created only in 1947.

President Carter's effort to coordinate and, to a degree, centralize intelligence activities appears reasonable and desirable.

The key question of success or failure lies initially with those agencies which are being brought under Admiral Turner. If they cooperate fully, success should be insured. But if they are intent on objecting to the new organization, our intelligence actions could be hampered until corrective moves are taken.